



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

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HIGH-SPEED TRAIN SYSTEM WILL BOOST LOCAL ORANGE COUNTY ECONOMY

Orange County Business Council Study Cites More Jobs, More Efficient Transportation

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Orange County will benefit from more than 23,000 new local jobs by 2020 as a result of the statewide high-speed train system proposed by the California High-Speed Rail Authority, according to a new study released today by the Orange County Business Council (OCBC).

The OCBC report shows that the increase in jobs will bring nearly \$103 million in additional tax revenue annually to Orange County by 2030, and residents will save an estimated \$22.6 million annually in direct ticket costs by choosing high-speed train travel over flying.

“Construction and operation of the high-speed train system can have sustained and significant benefits on Orange County’s economy,” said Tom Umberg, former Orange County Assemblyman and board member for the California High Speed Rail Authority. “Not only will the County coffers grow with the additional tax revenue, but individuals and families will benefit directly through an increase in well-paying jobs and travel cost savings. This is a great deal for Orange County.”

Most of the job growth, according to the study, will be in the finance, insurance and real estate industries, with additional gains in business and professional services and tourism.

“High-speed train service will provide greater commuter access, which is highly appealing to employees in the finance, insurance, business professional, government and tourism job sectors,” explained Dr. Wallace Walrod, vice president of research and communications for OCBC. “In France and Germany, research has shown that companies located in proximity to the high-speed train systems have enjoyed a competitive advantage through greater access to services and their workforce.”

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ADD 1 – High-speed Train System Will Boost Local Orange County Economy

OCBC also anticipates high-speed train service will be a boon for Orange County's tourism destinations, which currently see more than 31 million visitors each year. "The average family of four could save nearly \$800 by choosing high-speed train travel over round-trip airfare from San Francisco to Anaheim," said Walrod. "Savings of this magnitude will surely increase tourism to the area, which already generates \$506 million per year in taxes for our local economy."

Additional benefits to Orange County include:

- Between \$2 billion and \$3.6 billion in local economic benefit from construction expenditures.
- Greater land-use density around train stations, helping to curtail sprawl.
- Reduced petroleum consumption and carbon emissions from use of clean power, which is likely to be drawn from renewable energy sources.
- Additional funding for the Anaheim Regional Transportation Intermodal Center – the \$250 million transportation hub that will bring together High Speed Trains, Metrolink commuter rail, Amtrak, the proposed California/Nevada Super Speed train and OCTA bus service.

These findings and more illustrate the potential impact of Proposition 1A on the November ballot, which would provide funding to start construction of a new transportation alternative for congestion-weary Californians.

For more information about the OCBC report, "The Economic Impact of High Speed Rail for Orange County," please visit www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov or www.ocbc.org.

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